

OCTOBER 24-31, 2018

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Indy's **alt** e

A man with long dreadlocks and a beard, wearing red sunglasses, is holding a small brown and white dog. He is making a hand gesture with his right hand, showing three fingers. The background is a white surface with a pattern of small red dots.

BEST

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Sun King Brewing & Think Tank pose for Best of Indy

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Cover photo: DJ Rusty Redenbacher

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ONLINE NOW

TONIC BALL LINEUP

By: Seth Johnson

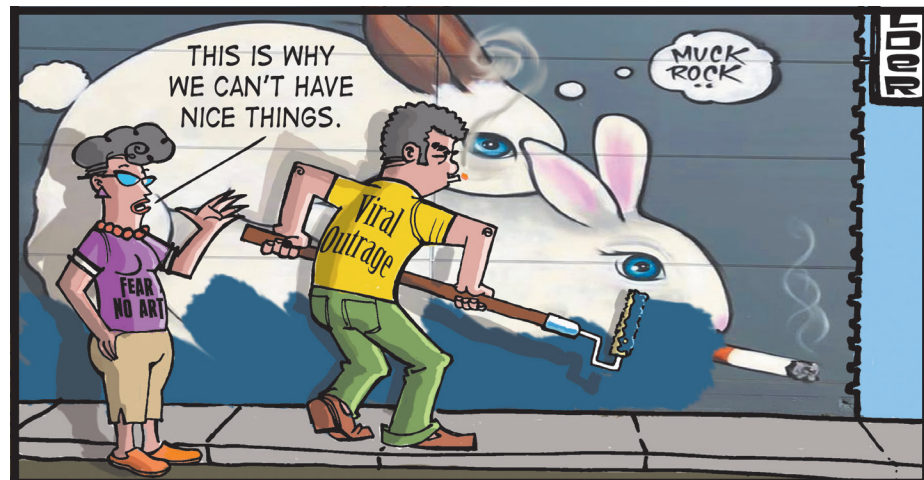
IN NEXT WEEK

NUVO VOTERS GUIDE

By: Rob Burgess

GADFLY

BY WAYNE BERTSCH



Want to see more Gadfly? Visit nuvo.net/gadfly for all of them.

“THE Q:”

What local restaurant gets your vote for the “Best in Indy?”

// NUVO STAFF



Laura McPhee
EDITOR
lmcphee@nuvo.net
[@thelauramcphoe](https://www.instagram.com/thelauramcphoe)
Bluebeard



Dan Grossman
ARTS EDITOR
dgrossman@nuvo.net
[@nuvoartsdan](https://www.instagram.com/nuvoartsdan)
Leonardo's Mexican Food



Rob Burgess
NEWS EDITOR
rburgess@nuvo.net
[@robaburg](https://www.instagram.com/robaburg)
St. Elmo



Seth Johnson
MUSIC EDITOR
sjohnson@nuvo.net
[@sethvtthem](https://www.instagram.com/sethvtthem)
Tortas Guicho Dominguez



Ian McPhee
WEB GUY//
SOUNDCHECK
ian@nuvo.net
Chicago's Fish & Chicken



Charlie Clark*
PRODUCTION MANAGER
cclark@nuvo.net
Asaka Japanese Restaurant



Haley Ward
PHOTOGRAPHY //
ADVERTISING DESIGNER
hward@nuvo.net
Egg Roll #1



Mercer Suppiger
EDITORIAL DESIGNER
msuppiger@nuvo.net
Papa Roux ☹️



La'Tia Smith
SALES //
MARKETING ASSISTANT
lsmith@nuvo.net
Mama's Korean Restaurant



Nathan Gonzalez
SALES //
REPRESENTATIVE
317.808.4603
ngonzalez@nuvo.net
Three Carrots



Trice Rias-Thompson
SALES MANAGER
317.808.4608
triesthompson@nuvo.net
The Boiling



Kathy Flahavin
BUSINESS MANAGER
kflahavin@nuvo.net
St. Elmo



Kevin McKinney
PUBLISHER
kmckinney@nuvo.net
Flatwater

FILM EDITOR: Ed Johnson-Ott, **CONTRIBUTING EDITOR:** David Hoppe, **CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS:** Wayne Bertsch, Mark Sheldon, Mark A. Lee, **CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:** Rita Kohn, Kyle Long, Dan Savage, Renee Sweany, Mark A. Lee, Alan Sculley
DISTRIBUTION SUPPORT: Mel Baird, Bob Covert, Mike Floyd, Zach Miles, Steve Reyes, Harold Smith, Bob Soots, Ron Whitsit, Dick Powell and Terry Whitthorne



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MAILING ADDRESS: 3951 N. Meridian
St., Suite 200, Indianapolis, IN 46208
TELEPHONE: (317) 254-2400
FAX: (317) 254-2405 **WEB:** nuvo.net

HARRISON ULLMANN
(1935-2000) Editor (1993-2000)
ANDY JACOBS JR. (1932-2013)
Contributing (2003-2013)

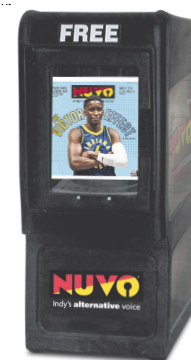
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kflahavin@nuvo.net,
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NO CRIMINAL CHARGES FOR CURTIS HILL

Fourth Accuser Comes Forward as Women Explore Civil Lawsuit

BY ROB BURGESS // RBURGESS@NUVO.NET

Events unfolded quickly Tuesday morning at the Marion County Prosecutor's Office in the ongoing controversy over allegations of sexual misconduct against Indiana Attorney General Curtis Hill.

First, Special Prosecutor Dan Sigler addressed the assembled press gathered in the first floor conference room to announce no charges would be filed against Hill.

Sigler simultaneously released a seven-page report to the Marion Superior Court Criminal Division.

Then, four of Hill's accusers, along with their attorneys from Katz Korin Cunningham, announced they were taking initial steps to proceed with a civil lawsuit.

Three of the women—State Rep. Mara Candelaria Reardon, D-Munster; Niki DaSilva, Legislative Assistant for the Indiana Senate Republicans; and Gabrielle McLemore, Communications Director for the Indiana Senate Democrats—had previously made their identities known to the public.

A fourth accuser—Samantha Lozano, Legislative Assistant for the Indiana House Demo-

crats—had been unnamed up to that point.

Simultaneously, the Indiana Office of the Inspector General released their own separate 25-page report announcing no charges would be filed.

HISTORY OF THE INCIDENT

The story first spilled into public view July 2 after *The Indianapolis Star* received a copy of a June 18 memorandum prepared by Blake Burgan of Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP and delivered to George T. Angelone, executive director of the Legislative Services Agency.

According to *The Star*, the eight-page memo summarizes interviews with six women who attended a Sine Die party at AJ Lounge, 1118 S. Meridian St., with lawmakers and staff after the legislative session ended March 15. ("Sine Die" is Latin meaning an adjournment "without a day" set for reconvening.)

The Star reported Reardon said that at the party, Hill "put his hands on her back, slid them down her back, put them under her clothes, and grabbed her buttocks." She re-

peatedly told him to "back off," but he came up to her later and again reached under her clothing, touching her against her will.

DaSilva, McLemore, and Lozano also encountered a reportedly drunken Hill that night, and all had similar tales of unwanted advances and inappropriate physical contact. He was also heard at the bar telling women they needed to "show a little skin" or "show more leg" if they wanted to get free drinks or faster service.

Legislative leaders of both parties issued a joint statement confirming that an investigation had taken place.

Hill denied acting inappropriately on the night in question or ever being contacted by investigators regarding the accusations.

Indiana Republican Party Chairman Kyle Hupfer also weighed in, stopping just short of calling for Hill to resign.

Indiana Democratic Party Chairman John Zody issued a statement of his own calling for Hill to resign, as did Speaker of the House Brian Bosma and Senate President Pro Tem David Long in a joint statement

July 5. Not long after, Gov. Eric Holcomb did the same.

Hill then issued his own statement, saying he was refusing to resign.

July 7, protesters gathered in support of the accusers at the Indiana Statehouse.

July 9, Hill made his first public appearance since the allegations and investigation were reported, and read a dramatic statement denying everything and casting himself in the role of victim.

July 13, Holcomb reaffirmed that he believed the four women.

July 18, Hill threatened a defamation lawsuit against the person who leaked the confidential memo.

Attorneys Kevin Betz and Sandra Blevins are also seeking the identity of the person who provided what they say is wrong information.

July 23, the attorney general's defenders—led by James Bopp Jr. and former Judge Linda Chezem of the Indiana Court of Appeals—launched a nonprofit, Fairness for Curtis Hill, to accept donations to fund his defense.

SPECIAL PROSECUTOR

July 24, Marion Superior Court Judge Lisa Borges named Sigler, a former Adams County prosecutor, to investigate whether Hill committed a crime.

The request for a special prosecutor was made by Marion County Prosecutor Terry Curry to ensure the investigation is impartial because Hill has represented that office in two previous lawsuits.

In his report, Sigler stated his determination of no charges being filed was not influenced by Hill's status as an elected official. Sigler stated he viewed the Hill investigation as two rails of the same railroad track.

"The first rail involved a potential employment harassment and civil misconduct claim," he wrote. "The second rail was the criminal investigation I was asked to undertake."

Sigler stated Indiana State Police Superintendent Doug Carter ultimately recused himself for similar reasons to Curry. After that, Torres' office and the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police assisted in his investigation.

Sigler stated that the most viable potential charge was misdemeanor battery, as "proof supporting the essential elements of sexual battery is not present."

"Misdemeanor battery requires proof that one person touched another person in a rude, insolent, or angry manner," he stated. "In order to convict a person of sexual battery, there must be proof beyond a reasonable doubt that a person was touched with sexual intent and the victim was compelled by force or the threat of force, the victim is unable to give consent because of his or her mental state (i.e. intoxication or disability) or they are unaware of the sexual touching."

A total of 56 witnesses were interviewed by investigators. Sigler stated he found the accusers' claims to be "true and credible."

"Hill, in his statement, did not deny certain touching occurred but stated that the touching was either incidental to conversation or movement in the crowded bar," he wrote. "He stated that his touches were not intended to be disrespectful, sexual in nature, or rude. Hill denied excessive alcohol consumption, but acknowledged consumption that I viewed to be 'significant.'"

In conclusion, Sigler stated he could not



CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT, GABRIELLE MCLEMORE, NIKI DASILVA, STATE REP. MARA CANDELARIA REARDON, AND SAMANTHA LOZANO ARE TAKING INITIAL STEPS TO FILE A CIVIL LAWSUIT AGAINST INDIANA ATTORNEY GENERAL CURTIS HILL.

prove Hill's intent, and did not think it likely a jury would convict.

"There is little public benefit to be served by filing a misdemeanor charge or charges which would likely result in a protracted, contentious, and expensive legal proceeding," he stated.

THE ACCUSERS' TURN

In the wake of Sigler's report, the four accusers announced are now filing paperwork with both the state and federal government

to ensure their future rights to file suit against the state and Hill are preserved.

The filings include a tort claim notice to the state and federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission charges.

Lozano stated it was important to her that she join the other three accusers in revealing her identity during this pivotal moment.

"It's time," she stated. "My colleagues have been so brave facing denial and accusations against them from Curtis Hill. Today I join them publicly in an effort to enact change."

INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT

In Indiana Inspector General Lori Torres report, Hill's drinking throughout the night at several different locations was recorded.

"Hill said he had a vodka martini, which he sipped on for quite some time, and he 'sipped from a fireball' at AJ's," it stated. "Of the 39 witnesses interviewed that attended the Sine Die party, 20 said Hill appeared to be intoxicated. When asked why ... witnesses made statements such as 'he had trouble standing up'; he was 'glassy-eyed'; his 'speech was slurring'; and he appeared to be 'disheveled.' One witness described him as 'acting like a freshman at a college frat party'; and another witness said he behaved in a 'predatory, intoxicated manner.'"

In addition to the four named accusers, the report also lists two other incidents involving accusations of Hill inappropriately touching four lobbyists in attendance.

Investigators also reviewed complaints of misuse of state property and ghost employment due in part to two press releases were issued by Hill's office on official letterhead defending his actions.

Torres stated she found no reason to pursue these charges or any others including battery or sexual battery.

HILL RESPONDS

Initially, Hill unsuccessfully challenged the appointment of a special prosecutor as well as the investigation by Torres.

Still, Hill—through his attorneys at Voyles Vaiana Lukemeyer Baldwin & Webb—wasted little time before crowing about the results of the reports.

"The Special Prosecutor's investigation exonerates and absolves Mr. Curtis Hill of any factual and legal criminal behavior," stated Hill's attorneys James H. Voyles and Jennifer M. Lukemeyer. "Mr. Hill appreciates the diligence and thoroughness taken by Special Prosecutor Daniel J. Sigler in his investigation. ... We never doubted that Mr. Hill would be cleared of any alleged crimes. ... Mr. Hill will continue to serve the people of Indiana in the capacity for which he was elected as the Indiana Attorney General." ■

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LADY VICTORY // PHOTO BY LAURA MCPHEE



BEST OF INDY 2018

Whether you were born here or are a transplant, there is plenty to be proud of in our hometown.

While it's certainly not perfect, the pothole crisis last winter is ample evidence of that, there is a lot more good than bad and a lot more to celebrate than denigrate.

Maybe that's why we get so chapped when people toss off phrases like "nap-town" or "flyover city." If that's your perception of Indianapolis, then you're the one with the problem.

When we ask NUVO readers to tell us what's best about Indy every year, we group the categories much like we do with our stories: Arts and Entertainment, Music and Nightlife, Dining and Drinking.

Because small business owners of all kinds are crucial to making our city great, we also ask you to tell us your favorite shops, businesses and service providers doing the dirty work to keep you fully-stocked in everything from hookah pipes to yoga classes in the Shops and Services category; plus we add in local flair and favorites like sports, radio, and television personalities.

It's not a perfect system, this Best of Indy voting process. But it's one we've been doing for 27 years, hopefully a little better each time. This year, voting took place in two rounds.

A nomination process consisting entirely of write-in votes by readers, and a final round that presented choices based on who got the most votes in the nomination round.

Despite our best attempts to be as clear as possible, we get a lot of complaints directed at the staff about why a certain rock band or sub shop didn't make the list. Time and again, we try and patiently explain that the NUVO Best of Indy awards are 100 percent generated by reader votes. It doesn't matter who advertises with us; it doesn't matter what our personal favorites are; this issue comes from the readers.

With that in mind, browse through and see what your peers are liking best around town this year. We're sure you'll find a few familiar names and faces, but we can promise a few surprises and new names as well.

Over the next 12 months, we will be writing about as many of these people and places as possible in order to introduce you more fully to what's truly best in Indy.

In the meantime, thanks to everyone who voted and congratulations to those who won. We're proud to be Hoosiers, proud of our hometown, and even prouder to introduce some of the best people, places, and experiences Indianapolis has to offer.

BEST OF INDY: CITY STANDOUTS

BY LAURA MCPHEE // LMCPHEE@NUVO.NET

READERS PICKS

BEST NEIGHBORHOOD

FOUNTAIN SQUARE

Times have changed, and now all the cool kids are hanging out at the corner of Virginia and Shelby smoking cigarettes and listening to shitty music, just like they used to in Broad Ripple. Despite this, Fountain Square is getting its due for being one of the best places to live in the city, something locals have known for generations. While there may be a lot more restaurant and bar choices these days, visit in the daytime to get a sense of why so many people are eager to call it home.

HONORABLE MENTION // Mass Ave/Chatham Arch, Irvington

BEST PARK

GARFIELD PARK

The oldest, biggest, and in our opinion most beautiful, city park, Garfield Park has been a Southside oasis for city dwellers for over a century. More recently, a great lineup of concerts have introduced the park to a whole new audience. With a conservatory, gorgeous gardens, an art center, public pool, playground, and acres of green space, it's hard to dispute a "Best of Indy" title.

HONORABLE MENTION // Holliday Park, Ellenberger Park

BEST SPOT FOR A PICNIC

EAGLE CREEK PARK

If you want to truly get away from the city, Eagle Creek is the place to do it. Get lost in the woods, Go boating on the reservoir. Or spread out a blanket and chow down. Any and all of these things are possible and highly recommended.

HONORABLE MENTION // Downtown Canal, Garfield Park

BEST HOUSE OF WORSHIP

TRADER'S POINT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Since acquiring the large Jehovah's Witnesses building at the corner of 12th and Delaware and opening earlier this year, the Trader's Point expansion has been a literal God-send for downtown residents tired of driving to the suburbs on Sunday morning. One of the fastest-growing congregations in the country, Trader's Point continues to hold services at its two northside locations as well.

HONORABLE MENTION // Our Shepherd Lutheran, St. Joan of Arc

BEST PLACE TO VOLUNTEER

INDY HUMANE SOCIETY

Indianapolis has a tremendous problem finding homes for all the unwanted pets that turn up at

shelters in droves. Thanks to the good folks at Indy Humane and the network of rescue groups they work with, an increasing number find new homes rather than meet their maker at animal control. They ALWAYS need volunteers, so don't be shy.

HONORABLE MENTION // Big Brothers/Sisters, Gleaner's Food Bank



FOUNTAIN SQUARE // PHOTO BY LAURA MCPHEE

BEST NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

GREATER INDY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Firm in their belief that everyone deserves a place to call home, the good folks at Habitat have helped more than 600 families achieve that dream since they began working locally in 1987. A lot of that work depends on volunteers like you.

HONORABLE MENTION // Second Helpings, Julian Center

BEST LOCAL ATHLETE

VICTOR OLADIPO, INDIANA PACERS

You have to go all the way back to Reggie Miller to find a Pacers player who was better-liked. His stellar work in the 2017-18 season earned him the title of Most Improved Player in the NBA and also a place in our hearts forever. He's got a side gig in music that we're a fan of too. Check him out on and off the court.

HONORABLE MENTION // Adam Vinatieri, Andrew Luck

BEST PRO SPORTS TEAM

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

While basketball is pretty much the state sport, it seems the Indianapolis Colts haven't yet lost their popularity. Still your favorite sports team despite a few rough years, we're hoping they can turn things around soon, while Andrew Luck also continues in his shoulder recovery.

HONORABLE MENTION // Indiana Pacers, Indiana Fever

BEST AMATEUR SPORTS TEAM

IU MEN'S BASKETBALL

All with such great history, it's hard to declare any of these three teams a decisive winner. This year, it was the IU Men's Basketball squad that garnered the most votes. The team is set to start the new season with a deep roster that includes Juwan Morgan and one of the most-anticipated freshman in the school's history: Romeo Langford.

HONORABLE MENTION // Butler Men's Basketball, Purdue Men's Basketball

BEST LOCAL INSTAGRAM FEED

HOTEL TANGO

A repeat win for the local distillery, Hotel Tango has retained its following despite the sad loss of its extremely photogenic and well-loved resident feline this year. Follow along for gorgeous drinks and guests, plus lots of shenanigans that keep it from feeling overly branded. But make sure you visit in person. The drinks are divine, and you can make your friends jealous by posting to your own Instagram feed.

HONORABLE MENTION // Mab Graves, Angel Burlesque

BEST LOCAL RADIO PERSONALITY

LAURA STEELE (WJJK)

When she left her long-time gig at Q-95 in 2016, her fans seemed to have had no trouble following her down the dial to WJJK. Now on in the evenings, Steele's love of rock 'n' roll and local roots make this Pike High School grad a favorite for just about everyone.

HONORABLE MENTION // Dave Smiley (WZPL), Jill Ditmire (WFYI)

BEST LOCAL RADIO STATION

WFYI

Where would we be without *Morning Edition* and *All Things Considered*? Not to mention *This American Life* and *Fresh Air*. It's also a wonderful place to catch performances by the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra and other local performances. We're grateful, and lucky, to have such a wonderful public radio station in Indianapolis.

HONORABLE MENTION // WZPL, WFBQ

BEST IN LOCAL TV

When it comes to local news, NUVO readers have a clear preference: WISH-TV Channel 8. Thanks



in part to a savvy social media campaign during the voting process, the on-air staff at WISH swept every single category associated with local television plus Best Twitter Feed!

Since going live in 1954, and becoming the local CBS affiliate in 1956, local viewers have come to depend on channel 8 for reliable, accurate television journalism. Though they were acquired by a larger media company in 2014 and became the CW affiliate, the newsroom continues to be the best option in local news, sports and weather according to NUVO readers.

BEST LOCAL TELEVISION STATION

WISH-TV

HONORABLE MENTION // WTHR, WXIN

BEST LOCAL NEWS ANCHOR

BROOKE MARTIN (WISH-TV)

HONORABLE MENTION // Nina Criscuolo (WISH-TV), Emily Kinzer (WISH-TV)

BEST LOCAL SPORTS REPORTING

ANTHONY CALHOUN (WISH-TV)

HONORABLE MENTION // Dave Calabro (WTHR), Rich Nye (WTHR)

BEST LOCAL WEATHER REPORTING

RANDY OLLIS (WISH-TV)

HONORABLE MENTION // Angela Buchman (WTHR), Sean Ash (WTHR)

BEST LOCAL TWITTER FEED

WISH-TV

HONORABLE MENTION // Pat McAfee, Indy Fuel



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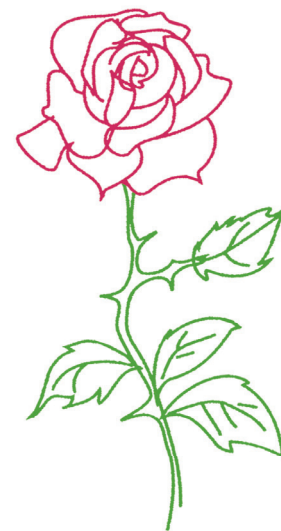
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Mama Carolla's
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Thank You!

We would like to thank everyone who voted for us. You are the reason that we are able to continue doing what we love. We would also like to thank our hard working staff. Our staff is the most important part of our restaurant and we couldn't do it without them. We at Mama's strive to create an atmosphere where you can enjoy delicious Italian food and wine at reasonable prices. We are very proud and appreciative to have been voted #1.

Grazie,
Mama



#1 Italian Restaurant

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BEST OF INDY: SHOPS AND SERVICES

BY LAURA MCPHEE // LMCPEE@NUVO.NET

Like so many others, we took it hard when news broke earlier this year that two favorite local shops were closing: Irvington Vinyl and Bookmamas. Our sadness was, thankfully, short-lived. Lucky for us, and everyone else, both shops now continue under the ownership of Elysia Lucinda Smith.

After only three months at the helm, Smith has managed to keep what's best about both previous stores and add her own spin on things—primarily, adding a hefty dose of programming that involves the neighborhood and creating a space where her neighbors feel welcome to buy, browse, or simply “be.”

“People can only use the tools they have access to; and I want to help make those tools available,” says Smith about the shops plentiful in-store resources and programming.

In addition to an ongoing zine project generated by visitors to the shop, **Irvington Vinyl & Books** hosts the For Colored Girls Book Club, a “space for Black women to discuss texts that reflect their lives, their stories, and their legacies,” lead by Gizelle Fletcher the fourth Tuesday of the month.

On the last Wednesday of the month, the store hosts Poets Attack and works to pair local poets with visiting writers from out of state. Each event lasts 90 minutes and admission is free. Scheduled poets for October include Bree Jo’Ann and Devon Ginn from Indianapolis and NYC poets Ariel Francisco and Kristine Esser-Slentz.

Irvington Vinyl & Books will be celebrating the annual Halloween Festival along with the rest of the neighborhood this week, and that includes Graveyard Smash on Saturday, Oct. 27, starting at noon. Billed as a “spooky, collaborative zine making event” the finished product will be printed soon after. Art-making supplies will be provided, and artists of all abilities are welcome.



ELYSIA SMITH, OWNER OF IRVINGTON VINYL & BOOKS
// PHOTO BY HALEY WARD

The best way to support local shops is by making purchases of course, and Irvington Vinyl & Books will keep you captivated for hours browsing both. If you can't find time to make it down to the shop, you can still support the programming via a subscribers program through Patreon.

In a world, and a neighborhood, where far too many business owners have very little interest or appreciation for the community, Elysia Smith has more than earned her Best of Indy title.

Now please do your part, and help keep her in business.

READERS PICKS

BEST BIKE SHOP

BGI (BICYCLE GARAGE INDY)

A repeat winner from last year, NUVO readers are sticking with a good thing. With three locations BGI has you covered no matter which side of town you're biking around and a staff of people who pride themselves on customer service and are always willing to help with whatever you need.

HONORABLE MENTION // Indy Cycle Specialist, Free Wheelin'

BEST BOOKSTORE

INDY READS

Indy's only downtown bookstore, you'd barely know this one was made up of mostly generous donations from those who want to help support local literacy programs. Newer books as well, but mostly a chance to help others while also helping yourself to great reads. Go when you have time to browse.

HONORABLE MENTION // Irvington Vinyl & Books, Kids Ink

BEST COMIC BOOK STORE

DOWNTOWN COMICS

Another repeat winner, Downtown Comics has been around longer than the movie franchises of the comics it so faithfully sells. Seriously good selection and helpful staff, plus a ton of stuff you didn't even know you needed until you got there.

HONORABLE MENTION // Comic Carnival, Hero House

BEST GIFTS/HOME GOODS

SILVER IN THE CITY

Almost an institution at this point, Silver in the City is the go-to place for the perfect gifts and jewelry for everyone you know, including yourself. We couldn't imagine Mass Ave without the goodies or good folks we've come to love at Silver in the City.

HONORABLE MENTION // Homespun Modern, Homemade, Rustic Root

BEST WOMEN'S FASHION

SAGE

This little shop on Mass Ave keeps a relatively low profile. You won't find a website, Facebook or Twitter feed to keep you up to date, though there is some Tumblr and Instagram activity. Mostly, you just have to drop in Wednesday through Sunday and check out the

beautiful clothes and accessories in person.

HONORABLE MENTION // Urban Gypsy, The Toggery

BEST MEN'S FASHION

JAMES DANT

James Dant takes top spot once again with some of the most badass men's clothing and accessories in town. Be prepared to shell out some dough when you're here, but realize the pieces you're bringing home are going to last you a lifetime.

HONORABLE MENTION // Leon's Tailoring, United State of Indiana

BEST RECORD STORE

IRVINGTON VINYL & BOOKS

Owner Elysia Smith carries on the tradition of two great shops now under one name and ownership. In addition to a great selection of music and books, Smith has also created a community space offering poetry readings, book clubs, and lots of workshops so neighbors can create their own works. No wonder she's taken top honors this year.

HONORABLE MENTION // Luna Music, Indy CD and Vinyl

BEST FLOWER SHOP

ROSEBUD FLOWERS AND GIFTS

Beech Grove shops made a great showing this year, including this longtime florist in the heart of the village. For more than 29 years, Rosebud has been providing some of the freshest flowers and prettiest arrangements in Indy.

HONORABLE MENTION // McNamara, Gillespie

BEST FRESH GROCER

GOOSE THE MARKET

No doubt, Goose has become one of the finest butcher shops in town since Chris Ely opened almost a decade ago. Throw in all the local produce, the great wine selection, the cheese selection, and the nicest staff in town, and you've got a true winner.

HONORABLE MENTION // Wildwood, Tyler Ponds

BEST LIQUOR STORE

KAHN'S FINE WINES AND SPIRITS

Kahn's will occasionally take 2nd or 3rd in this category, but more often than not NUVO readers recognize the stellar selection of wine, beer, and spirits at Kahn's as second-to-none. With lots of free tastings and workshops, plus a helpful staff, don't hesitate to try something new at one of the best.

HONORABLE MENTION // Big Red, Mass Ave Wines

BEST MUSIC GEAR/INSTRUMENT SHOP

MAIN STREET MUSIC

Since 1994, this family-owned music shop in Beech Grove has provided a full selection of instruments, amplifiers and accessories. A great place if you need to rent an instrument for school kids just starting out, our make a major purchase.

HONORABLE MENTION // Arthur's Music, Paige's Music

BEST ANIMAL HOSPITAL/VET

BROOKVILLE ROAD ANIMAL HOSPITAL

We all love our furbabies as members of the family, so it's no fun when they are injured or sick. Thankfully, the good folks at Brookville Road provide excellent care at affordable rates. An increasingly rare find these days.

HONORABLE MENTION // Noah's Animal Hospital, Mass Ave Veterinarian

BEST ARCADE

TAPPERS

Ever wish you could drink a great craft brew and play Ms. PacMan at the same time? Pine no more. Head to Fletcher Place and discover the city's first retro arcade that also happens to be an excellent bar. Games are free to play, and they have all your favorites. Just don't knock me off that Tron leaderboard.

HONORABLE MENTION // Punch Bowl, Pin Vault

BEST LOCAL RESTAURANT

BLUEBEARD

Holding its place at the top, Bluebeard has proven it's anything but a flash in the pan. With a menu using fresh, mostly local ingredients, a phenomenal bar with great staff, and indoor dining options as lovely as the outdoor, Bluebeard is a special place deserving all the praise it received this year from NUVO readers.

HONORABLE MENTION // Rook, Milktooth

BEST BOWLING ALLEY

BEECH GROVE BOWL

Once upon a time, the city was full of bowling alleys. Now they're being gentrified into office spaces and condos. But we digress. Recently renovated, Beech Grove Bowl is open 24 hours a day and offers open and league bowling. Plus there's a dang good selection of food to keep you going until it's your turn to throw a strike or strike a pose.

HONORABLE MENTION // Action Duckpin Bowling, Pinheads

BEST BARBER / HAIR SALON

THE VAULT

If you're still getting your hair cut anywhere else, you're a fool. NUVO readers have voted The Vault No. 1 more times than you can shake a stick at. Another Beech Grove small business that's getting lots of love this year, any one of their seven stylists is ready to provide your next favorite haircut.

HONORABLE MENTION // Tru Reflections, Urban Gypsy

BEST GYM / FITNESS CENTER

INVOKE STUDIO

Yoga is all the rage, even the goats are doing it. And according to NUVO readers, it's the number one way to stay in shape if you're doing yoga at Invoke. Also voted the best yoga studio in town, Invoke offers a variety a classes including Pilates and something called the Bar Effect (which isn't nearly as intoxicating as it sounds).

HONORABLE MENTION // Cityway YMCA, Planet Fitness

BEST YOGA STUDIO

INVOKE STUDIO

Have you been meaning, for one thousand years, to take up yoga? Invoke is the place to do it. Both beginners and experts are welcome as Invoke offers 100 classes a week from the basics to advanced vinyasa, with or without the heat turned all the way up. Check out their teacher training workshops.

HONORABLE MENTION // Hot Room, City Yoga

BEST SPA

STUDIO 2000

One of the most gorgeous places in town is also one of the most relaxing. Studio 2000 can be found in the Art Deco masterpiece known as Circle Tower. Built in 1929, the space first operated as a men's barbershop for most of the last century, before being transformed into a spa in 2000.

HONORABLE MENTION // Indy Massage, Evan Todd

BEST SMOKE SHOP

MAGIC BUS

Their name is still as rad it was last year, and the year before that, and the year before that. If you're looking for pipes? They got it. Papers? They got it. Hemp clothing? Incense? Jewelry? They got those too. Just want to stop in and chat with the cool ass employees? That's fine too.

HONORABLE MENTION // 20 Past 4 and More, Obadiah's

BEST TATTOO PARLOR

SALTY SIREN

We're thrilled to welcome Salty Siren to the winner's circle! This female-owned tattoo shop opened last year and has already garnered a ton of fans and repeat customers. Head down to Greenwood and find out what all the fuss is about (but visit the website and make an appointment first).

HONORABLE MENTION // Fountain Square Tattoo, Artistic Skin Design



ANDREW GUMMER, LENNY FLOYD, AND TAYLOR MORRIS
OF SALTY SIREN // PHOTO BY HALEY WARD

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PLEASE VOTE AGAIN NEXT YEAR



BEST OF INDY: FOOD AND DRINK

BY LAURA MCPHEE AND LARRY KONOWALIK // EDITORS@NUVO.NET



RICK SMITH, DEREK HERRING, JOHN YARNELLE, AMANDA WALLACE, AND
MAL DAMBY OF CENTERPOINT BREWING // PHOTOS BY HALEY WARD

Indy's restaurant scene continues to thrive with local options continuing to make making national headlines. Two chefs were semifinalists for the James Beard Awards in 2018: **Abbi Merriss of Bluebeard** and Steve Oakley of Oakley's Bistro.

Oakley and his restaurants have long been a favorite of NUVU readers, and he's won a good number of Best of Indy awards over the years. This year, it was Abbi Merriss who captured the largest number of votes as Best Local Chef for her work at **Bluebeard**—with the restaurant named Best Local Restaurant and honorable mentions in Best Upscale Dining, Romantic Dining, and Service.

St. Elmo retains its top spot in a good number of categories as well, even taking back a title or two from Bluebeard this year. For more than 100 years, the restaurant has served the best steak in town and provided one of the best atmospheres anywhere.

On the other end of the budgetary scale, less expensive (but no less tasty) fare got plenty of votes this year. SoBro's favorite dive, **The Sinking Ship**, brought home the gold in two categories, Best Pub Food and Best Place For Late Night Munchies, as well as runner-up for Best Local Vegan/Vegetarian fare.

The Sinking Ship's unique amalgamation of pop culture coupled with fantastic food is the

main draw, though an outrageous beer and whiskey selection certainly don't hurt. It's the perfect place to catch a hockey game, rekindle your love for the golden age of Wrestling or check out live music ranging from screaming metal to indie rock classics.

If atmosphere is what draws us in, it's the food that keeps us coming back for more. Come worship at the throne of Seitan because this place is religion when it comes to pub food. The vegan options are vast and amazing. We challenge you to bring in that friend of yours who swears fake meat is no substitute. The seitan wings alone put real chickens to shame. The Sinking Ship's menu also hosts a variety of non-veg options as well including a beyond delicious smoked brisket and a carnitas torta you'll have to taste to believe.

And a big shout-out to **Centerpoint Brewing**. Celebrating their second anniversary this month, this craft brewery in the Circle City Industrial Complex has toppled a couple of local giants in the business and taken the title of Best Local Brewery and Best Local Beer (the Blood Orange). That's quite an accomplishment for the newcomers, but also a testament to quality of the beer and a terrific staff. Great beer, great people. Pretty simple, really.

READERS PICKS

BEST LOCAL RESTAURANT

BLUEBEARD

Holding its place at the top, Bluebeard has proven it's anything but a flash in the pan. With a menu using fresh, mostly local ingredients, a phenomenal bar with great staff, and indoor dining options as lovely as the outdoor, Bluebeard is a special place deserving all the praise it received this year from NUVU readers.

HONORABLE MENTION // Rook, Milktooth

BEST CHEF

ABBI MERRISS AT BLUEBEARD

It makes sense that the best restaurant in town would also be recognized as having the best chef. We're thrilled to see Abbi Merriss and her team get the recognition they deserve for crafting one of the best, and most unique, menus in the city. Even better, the farm-to-fork emphasis means that menu is always evolving with available fresh, local flavors.

HONORABLE MENTION // Jonathan Brooks at Milktooth, Carlos Salazar at Rook

BEST SERVICE

ST. ELMO STEAKHOUSE

A meal at St. Elmo is truly an experience unlike anywhere else in the city. Recently-retired head server, Lorenzo, has been taking care of tables and bringing back a slew of regulars for over 40 years and every bit of service here strives to be at that level of precision, friendliness, and expertise. This is where you come to be treated like royalty in Indy by an impeccable staff serving amazing food.

HONORABLE MENTION // Bluebeard, Tinker Street

BEST UPSCALE DINING

ST. ELMO STEAKHOUSE

Bluebeard and St. Elmo swapped spots this year with the old-timer reclaiming the crown. It's hard to find new ways to praise Indy's oldest restaurant, but you all seem to get it as well as we do. Hands down, the winner of more Best of Indy awards than any other restaurant in our 27 years of giving them out.

HONORABLE MENTION // Bluebeard, Tinker Street

BEST ROMANTIC DINING

ST. ELMO STEAKHOUSE

Oh, hey, look! Another first place award for St. Elmo!

And why wouldn't the best upscale restaurant also be the most romantic? This is where you go for the special nights—when you are proposing, or celebrating an anniversary, or simply saying “I love you,” in a very expensive way.

HONORABLE MENTION // Bluebeard, Eagle's Nest

BEST FARM-FORK DINING

MILKTOOTH

Milktooth is committed to fresh ingredients and getting as many of those ingredients from local sources as possible. “We lose money everyday in supporting local farms when we could just buy commercial products,” owner Jonathan Brooks told us recently. “We 100 percent support local.”

HONORABLE MENTION // Public Greens, Bluebeard

BEST PLACE FOR BREAKFAST/BRUNCH

MILKTOOTH

All those local ingredients Brooks is bringing to Milktooth pay off in one of the best breakfast menus in the country. Where else are you going to find Indiana Autumn pancakes with ingredients like “shiitake, sweet potato, pear, bleu cheese cream, walnut, greens, and apple cider vinaigrette.” And why have oatmeal when you could have, “ancient grains porridge with coconut milk, peach jam, flax seed, and pistachio?”

HONORABLE MENTION // Cafe Patashou, Lincoln Square Pancake House

BEST VEGETARIAN DINING

THREE CARROTS

Three Carrots makes dishes that are unbelievably delicious for vegans, vegetarians and omnivores alike—and thanks to a new location in Fountain Square that opened last year, you have no excuse not to try a meatless meal. Their Seitanderloin is so damn good it was up for best tenderloin in a state that prides itself on tenderloins; if that's not proof of how great this place is, we just don't know what is.

HONORABLE MENTION // Sinking Ship, 3 Sisters Cafe

BEST OUTDOOR DINING

RICK'S BOATYARD CAFE

Indy has few outdoor options that also seat you alongside water, maybe that's why Rick's wins year after year. A beautiful spot anytime of year, summer and fall are perfect for watching the calming water on Eagle Creek reservoir and enjoying delicious seafood in the sun.

HONORABLE MENTION // Livery, Bluebeard

BEST CHEAP EATS

YATS

There are few people in this town with a spirit more generous than Yats owner Joe Vuskovich, and that generosity shows up everywhere at his restaurants. The atmosphere, the staff, the portions, and the flavors are all inviting and, if not heart-warming, definitely belly-filling.

HONORABLE MENTION // Lincoln Square Pancake House, La Parada

BEST PLACE FOR LATE-NIGHT MUNCHIES

THE SINKING SHIP

Late-night munchies don't discriminate and neither does The Sinking Ship. They have options for anyone and everyone, whether you need a spicy Chuck Norris burger, a cup of chili, some vegan seitan wings, a sack of balls (donut holes), or just one more beer, they've got you covered.

HONORABLE MENTION // Cluster Truck, Brass Ring

BEST SEAFOOD

CAPLINGER'S FRESH CATCH

A family owned-business that opened in 2013, Caplinger's has become a go-to spot for fresh seafood to take home to cook as well as a place to get some of the best fish sandwiches and lobster rolls you'll come across. Fresh seafood delivered daily.

HONORABLE MENTION // Salt, Oceanaire

BEST SOUL FOOD

KOUNTRY KITCHEN

For 30 years, Kountry Kitchen has served Southern cooking alongside open-minded hospitality and has secured its place as a beloved Indianapolis institution. Over the years, this neighborhood staple has taken the top spot for Soul Food more often than not.

HONORABLE MENTION // The Eagle, Mississippi Belle

BEST STEAK

ST. ELMO STEAKHOUSE

Not much has changed since 1902 in this quintessential Indianapolis restaurant. The top-quality steaks, service and world-famous shrimp cocktails are still as good as ever. Enjoy a meal at one of the classic white-clothed tables and watch for many of Indy's most recognizable faces as you enjoy your meal.

HONORABLE MENTION // Steer-Inn, Bynum's

BEST DELI/SANDWICH SHOP

GOOSE THE MARKET

Local options ranging from fresh meats and cheese to local potato chips and snacks, this spot on Delaware and 25th street is a must visit. A rotating menu that only uses the freshest ingredients means you're always in for a delicious surprise. You can come in at lunch for an amazing sandwich and do some shopping while you're there for local meats, cheese and produce.

HONORABLE MENTION // Shapiro's, Wildwood Market

BEST BAKED GOODS

LONG'S BAKERY

While we are certainly a fan of all the new bake goods in town, from macarons to baguettes, nothing—and we mean NOTHING—beats a glazed donut from Long's. Seriously, we'll throw punches over this one. Get there early if you go on the weekend, but still expect a line. And bring cash. They don't take cards. No, not even for you.

HONORABLE MENTION // Victory Rolls & Baked Goods, Amelia's





JEFF BERMAN, OWNER OF BAZBEAUX //



KIRSTIE HAYWARD, JAY HILL, & MIKAYLA AMBROSE OF BRICS //



STEVE HALL, CO-OWNER OF TINKER COFFEE CO. //



JUSTIN LEUER, OWNER OF MAMA CAROLLA'S //

BEST COFFEE

TINKER COFFEE CO.

While they may not have a traditional cafe, you can still stop by Tinker Coffee Co. for freshly roasted coffee by the bag or register for a coffee cupping class. You'll also find it served at great establishments all over town. Did we mention you can also get it online at tinkerstreet.com? Good. Now you have no reason not to have a cup soon.

HONORABLE MENTION // Hubbard and Cravens, Bee Roasters

BEST ICE CREAM

BRICS

Need a sugar rush to help energize you for the last couple miles of your Fall ride down the Monon? BRICS has you covered. The 64th Street special is the Godzilla of banana splits and flavors such as yellow cake batter and French silk will keep you coming back for more.

HONORABLE MENTION // Sundae's, Lick

BEST HAMBURGER

BRU BURGER

Always worth the wait, this Mass Ave favorite is still serving up the best beef in town. Coupled with amazing sides (seriously, try the mac n' cheese) and an expansive craft beer list, it's no wonder the people have decided Bru retains the title.

HONORABLE MENTION // Workingman's Friend, Box Burger

BEST PIZZA

BAZBEAUX

In one of the tightest races we saw this year, Bazbeaux takes the crown for best pizza pie by narrowly edging out Jockamo. Bazbeaux's artisan pizzas are something special and go perfect with one of our favorite sides in the city, the pesto cheese garlic bread.

HONORABLE MENTION // Jockamo Upper Crust, Puccini's Smiling Teeth

BEST TENDERLOIN

MUG 'N BUN

In Indiana, the pork tenderloin is akin to religion. That being said, go make the pilgrimage to this historic west side drive in and pay homage to the prince of pork. Wash it down with a root beer float and party like it's 1959.

HONORABLE MENTION // The Mug, Edward's Drive-in

BEST WINGS

ALE EMPORIUM

Ale Emporium's victory for best sports bar has a little to do with the TVs and beer, but a lot to do with their wings. Served by the pound and fall off the bone delicious time and time again. These wing will dry rub you the right way.

HONORABLE MENTION // Keystone Sports Review, Chatham Tap

BEST AFRICAN CUISINE

SAFFRON

Moroccan food at its finest. The Lamb Tajine is truly something special. Located downtown, this little slice of heaven offers a bit of escapism transporting you a world away with both flavor and atmosphere.

HONORABLE MENTION // Abyssina, Axum

BEST BRITISH/CELTIC CUISINE

UNION JACK

This British style pub is huge on many things; portion size, environment, selection. With options from the biggest damn pizza you've ever seen to the more traditional fare such as fish and chips, this place has something for everyone.

HONORABLE MENTION // Chatham Tap, Red Lion Grog House

BEST CAJUN/CREOLE CUISINE

YATS

This one comes as no surprise. Yats has been a

hometown favorite since first opening its doors on 54th and College. A real taste of the bayou, the Chili Cheese Etouffee will always be a classic. A variety of craft beer choices will have you thinking you've left the Circle City for Bourbon Street.

HONORABLE MENTION // Papa Roux, Zydeco

BEST CHINESE CUISINE

EGG ROLL #1

Putting the term number one in your title only works if you can back it up. This perennial favorite hosts some of the most amazing traditional Chinese fare in Indy along with a variety of Thai options and some of the best pho in the city.

HONORABLE MENTION // Szechuan Garden, Lotus Garden

BEST INDIAN CUISINE

INDIA GARDEN

Approaching perfection with nearly everything this expansive Indian buffet has to offer, it was a clear and decisive choice for Indy's best. You might expect the Tikka Masala to be great, and you'd be right. The real fortune favors the bold here. Don't fear the spice! Try the Lamb Madras.

HONORABLE MENTION // Shalimar, Chapati

BEST ITALIAN CUISINE

MAMA CAROLLA'S

Romantic atmosphere, check. First rate pasta, double check. Amazing wine choices, well mama mia that's amore for us. Mama Corolla's stays firmly planted as Indy's number one choice for Italian food.

HONORABLE MENTION // Iaria's, Napolese

BEST MEDITERRANEAN CUISINE

GREEK ISLANDS

Opa! This place is much more than a flashy ball of fire from an order of Saganaki. The new champion of Mediterranean cuisine in Indianapolis has a selection as various as the Greek Isles themselves.

Be sure to try the Chicken Souvlaki.

HONORABLE MENTION // Canal Bistro, Bosphorus

BEST MEXICAN CUISINE

LA MARGARITA

With a prime location right in the heart of Fountain Square, La Margarita takes the crown in a heavily saturated Latin food market. Endless chips and salsa, amazing enchiladas, super sized margaritas. This spot has it all including an expansive vegan menu.

HONORABLE MENTION // La Parada, Acapulco Joe's

BEST SUSHI/JAPANESE CUISINE

SAKURA

Never short on business, this place is worth developing a little patience for. Sakura has been cranking out the best sushi and sashimi in the city for 20 plus years. They don't need to change because they've always done it just right.

HONORABLE MENTION // Asaka, Ichiban

BEST THAI CUISINE

SIAM SQUARE

Indy knows what Indy likes. Siam Square takes gold again in the Thai food category. If you haven't been yet, you're missing out on what many of your neighbors have known for quite a while now. Have some pad seuw and get woke already.

HONORABLE MENTION // Thai Spice, Thai Cafe

BEST FOOD FESTIVAL/EVENT

TASTE OF INDY

More than 15,000 people took part in this year's Taste of Indy festival. With more than 50 vendors and flavors from every part of the world, the festival also offers up chef demonstrations, live music and a beer and wine selection that keeps the grown-ups happy. Look for 2019 dates to be announced soon.

HONORABLE MENTION // Veg Fest, Pierogi Festival

BEST WINE FESTIVAL/EVENT

VINTAGE INDIANA

Taking over Historic Military Park every summer, this festival offers an incredible selection of wineries from around the state and always has an enjoyable lineup of bands for the day. It has taken this top spot for years and it's showing no signs of slowing down.

HONORABLE MENTION // Meadful Things, WFYI Wine Fest

BEST BEER FESTIVAL/EVENT

OKTOBERFEST AT GERMAN PARK

The German-American Klub of Indianapolis has been celebrating Oktoberfest at this southside park for as long as we can remember, which is a very long time. Live music, dancing, carnival rides, and the best German food in the city at the on-site Edelweiss restaurant.

HONORABLE MENTION // Microbrewers Festival, CANvitational

BEST LOCAL BREWERY

CENTERPOINT BREWING

In less than two years, this craft brewery at the Circle Center Industrial Complex has captured the hearts and taste buds of Indy's most discerning beer drinkers. The location and friendly staff certainly help. Stop by on your next First Friday visit and make some new friends.

HONORABLE MENTION // Sun King, Black Acre

BEST INDIANA BEER

CENTERPOINT: BLOOD ORANGE

Made from Amarillo and Simcoe hops, with a little Blood Orange fruit thrown in for good measure, gives this IPA a refreshing and sweet citrus burst with just a touch of bitterness. It's the #1 seller for Centerpoint, by a longshot, and increasingly available in cans around Indiana. Pick up a six-pack for \$11 or fill your growler for \$12.

HONORABLE MENTION // Sun King: Cream Ale, Daredevil: Liftoff

BEST LOCAL WINERY/MEADERY

OLIVER WINERY

Oliver winning Best Winery isn't purely due to its prolific wine selection; it's also one of the most beautiful wineries you'll visit in the state. It's the perfect place to stop for a weekend trip in Bloomington or Nashville to grab a bottle or two before heading to your cabin, boat or campsite.

HONORABLE MENTION // New Day Meadery, Ash and Elm Winery

BEST LOCAL DISTILLER

HOTEL TANGO

Since coming into Fletcher Place as the city's first distillery Hotel Tango has created multiple award-winning spirits. The mountain-lodge-like taproom is one of the most comfortable rooms in the city with its handcrafted stone fireplace and comfy couches; add to that the deftly crafted cocktails and you have a recipe for a nearly perfect Indianapolis evening.

HONORABLE MENTION // West Fork Whiskey, New Day Meadery



NATE GONZALES, BEREK LEONARD, AND JAMES WUERCH OF THE SINKING SHIP //

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MARK REICHEL, MARIA BEHRINGER, AND TONY QUINTANA OF 10TH WEST GALLERY //



BY DAN GROSSMAN // DGROSSMAN@NUVO.NET

Irvington Halloween Festival's win couldn't have come at a better time of year.

Since 1946, it's grown from a way to keep kids out of trouble on Halloween to a week-long neighborhood extravaganza.

The costume parade is always a big draw. Taking place this year on Saturday, Oct. 27, highlights include the Marion County Fair Queen, the world's oldest table tennis champion Richard Hicks, the Black Hat Society of Dancing Witches, and Krampus of Indianapolis.

During the Street Fair, the 5K Pleasant Run Vampire Run will feature Hoosier-born hipster runner Noah Drodgy, who participated in the run last year.

"Whenever he's in town he always runs," says Festival Director Nancy Tindall-Sponsel. "He's a really good spokesperson for our run."

Also taking place during the Street Fair in addition to the parade and the run, is a soap box derby race that substitutes coffins for

soap boxes. The family-friendly coffin race is co-sponsored by Indy Grimo, and is a new event this year—Tindall-Sponsel's second year as the festival director.

"I'm a second generation Irvingtontonian," she says. "My parents were on the original council in 1972. And they helped with running the festival way into the late 80s. My parents retired at that point. There's a strong sense of community in our family."

Tindall-Sponsel says that she strives to keep the Irvington Halloween Festival family-friendly. "All our children's events we maintain free so that families can come enjoy not have worry about having to pay. As long as I'm the chairperson, all of our children's events will remain free."

Tindall-Sponsel says she's very proud of Irvington and hopes that the Halloween Festival will turn visitors on to the historic Eastside community.

"My vision is for people to come to our

festival and enjoy it so much they want to move and come live in Irvington," she says.

Another notable winner this year is **10th West** at the Stutz being named Best Local Art Gallery.

Proprietor Mark Reichel opened 10th West in December 2017. A rotating exhibition that brings in artists from all over the Midwest and beyond complements the regular "stable" of artists. And the young co-curators, Tony Quintana and Maria Behringer, have brought a refreshing contemporary edge to the exhibitions in the space.

A case in point was their September exhibition *Garbage*, which refers not to refuse, exactly, but to the repurposed materials that are everywhere in the contemporary art world right now.

Behringer describes the invited artists who displayed work in the exhibition as a diverse group with some commonalities. "Scott Silvey from Georgia was painting on

pizza boxes and cereal boxes," she says, "a very unheard of medium. That was exciting right away. And then we found Patrick Driscoll a couple of months before that. He'd been doing these diapers and T-shirts. I think kind of this perfect storm of well these are two unheard of materials or mediums that artists don't really use."

It is, perhaps, more surprising to see such work in 10th West's commercial gallery setting than in the nonprofit and communal spaces more typical in the Indy gallery scene.

The curators needed another artist to complete *Garbage* as an exhibition so they brought in Matt Kräck who they had worked with in an exhibit at the newly-opened Phoenix Theatre Cultural Centre.

Quintana and Behringer had been working at the Phoenix as a result of another one of their initiatives. That is, they enjoy curating as a team together and wanted to bring their project outside 10th West and the Stutz.

"So that's why we have our Community Curators project on the side," says Behringer.

One of these projects is *The Untold Stories of Gun Violence show*.

"It's a travelling exhibition and we're working with Joe Quint the photographer on getting it in more places in Indy or outside of Indy as its travelling through the Midwest," says Quintana.

Quintana says they complement one another's skills. "She brings the artist side, I bring the art history side," he says. Additionally, they're both personally invested in contemporary art.

"We want to hammer into people's heads that it's easy to become a collector," says Behringer. "Tony's just started his collection. I've just started a collection of my own."

To cultivate an art collecting crowd, they've started collector nights on the First Thursday of each month. They want to attract the crowds more interested in buying art than socializing, which Indianapolis First Fridays have become particularly known for.

And upcoming for 2019?

"Regional's a big thing that we're hitting on," says Behringer. "We're visiting a lot of other cities around the Midwest, pulling a lot of new work that Indianapolis has never seen. That will be one of goals."

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Arts+Entertainment Continued...



READERS PICKS

BEST VISUAL ARTIST

AMANDA KELLER

Fun, intricately-detailed illustrations of animals, including Sesame Street characters, are Amanda Keller's thing. "Ever since I can remember, I have always been drawing animals and caricatures, turning the family cat into a secret agent, or morphing my sister into a gerbil," Keller has said previously about her development as an artist. In addition to owning Indy Arty Party, Keller also runs Keller Illustrations. She's also in the middle of organizing Indy Art Mart, featuring 30 local artists.

HONORABLE MENTION // Constance Scopelitis, C.S. Stanley

BEST ART GALLERY

10TH WEST GALLERY

Located inside the historic Stutz Business Center, this new gallery hosts Stutz-based artist regulars, and other Indy area artists who support the gallery's permanent collection. The gallery also features rotating exhibitions of local and regional artists. Always a good First Friday stop.

HONORABLE MENTION // Harrison Center Galleries, Indianapolis Art Center Galleries

BEST MUSEUM

THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

The world's biggest children's museum (didya know?) has a plethora of activities to choose from, including a DC superheroes exhibit, and the Dinosphere, which is a must. General admission allows access to the brand new outdoor sports experience along with the whole kit, kat, and kaboodle.

HONORABLE MENTION // Indianapolis Museum of Art, Eiteljorg Museum

BEST LOCAL FILM FESTIVAL

HEARTLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

During the run of Indy's most prestigious film festival that finished last week, 28 short films and 108 feature films (136 in total) were screened and

more than \$80,000 in prize monies were awarded. This year there was a strong presence of female producers and directors in the films featured.

HONORABLE MENTION // Indy Film Fest, LGBTQ Film Festival

BEST PERFORMING ARTS GROUP

INDIANAPOLIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Engagement's an increasing challenge for symphony orchestras in the age of the iPhone and Netflix. To be sure ISO takes the pop culture angle to grab audiences by the eyeballs and earbells. Consider their upcoming offering *Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope in Concert*. But this season they also receive pianists Dejan Lazić and André Watts, giving Indy the best of both worlds.

HONORABLE MENTION // Circle City Chamber Choir (C4), Angel Burlesque

BEST LOCAL SPOKEN WORD

JASON ADAMS

IndyFringe favorite Jason Adams is a spoken word artist in the loosest, which is perhaps also the best, sense of the word. That is to say, he's a genre-bender extraordinaire. He challenges the finest performing artists in Indy and challenges them to face their fears on stage. He'll make slam poets do card tricks, Shakespearean actors do stand-up, and he'll read your mind too.

HONORABLE MENTION // Too Black, Corey Ewing

BEST LOCAL AUTHOR

JOHN GREEN

It's no surprise that Indianapolis resident John Green's young adult novel *Looking for Alaska* made the list of America's 100 most loved books for PBS's Great American Read. *Alaska* is just one of the books adored by his legions of fans, two of which have been made into movies. But it's not just his books that make Green a shoe-in for this award. Green is a writer deeply engaged with the city of Indianapolis, which often is the setting for his award-winning books.

HONORABLE MENTION // Dan Wakefield, Hans Cummings

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BEST LOCALLY PRODUCED PLAY

HEDWIG AND THE ANGRY INCH

The story of the legendary diva and rock goddess Hedwig Schmidt is brought to Indy audiences by Zach & Zack, the team that brought the Circle City *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, which, incidentally, is a three-time NUVO Best of Indy No. 1 Award winner.

HONORABLE MENTION // Paper Swords, Autumn Takes a Tumble

BEST LOCAL THEATRE VENUE

THE PHOENIX

The new Phoenix Theatre Cultural Centre's architecture can be described as aggressively functional. The exterior facade is composed largely of exposed concrete, as is much of the interior, mirroring the Phoenix's reputation for edgy performance. Literally, state-of-the-art.

HONORABLE MENTION // Indianapolis Repertory Theatre, The Tarkington Theatre

BEST LOCAL LIVE THEATRE SEASON

INDYFRINGE

The annual IndyFringe Fest, having just completed its 14th year—with its 70-odd different performers/performance groups—is a 10-day-long festival that runs every year in in August. But IndyFringe is active all year round. And this year they stepped in this year to manage the District Theatre, to insure Mass Ave remains a vital spot for theatre in the Circle City.

HONORABLE MENTION // Phoenix Theatre, Indianapolis Repertory Theatre

BEST DANCE TROUPE

DANCE KALEIDOSCOPE

We fell in love with Dance Kaleidoscope's *Soul Sisters* back in August and have the same high hopes for DK's next production, opening Thursday, Oct. 25, a collaboration with American Piano

Association Pianist Eric Zuber. You can bet your dancing shoes that this performance will be both urgent and contemporary.

HONORABLE MENTION // Phoenix Rising, Ballet Theatre of Indiana

BEST LOCAL BURLESQUE TROUPE

ANGEL BURLESQUE

Angel Burlesque, which has been voted best burlesque five times in NUVO, wows audiences with shows like their annual Nerdgasm. To Angel Burlesque, *nerdy* and *real* are synonyms for sexy, whether they're putting on short performances or full-length productions.

HONORABLE MENTION // Rocket Doll Revue, Burlesque Bingo Bango

BEST LOCAL COMEDY TROUPE/VENUE

COMEDYSPORTZ

This long-running Mass Ave comedy and improv venue is part of CsZ, which according to the website is a "a global network of companies that transform the world through improvisation's unique ability to foster collaboration, inspiration, gratitude." But it's also a super-intimate, super casual venue where you can enjoy a super night of improv comedy.

HONORABLE MENTION // IndyProv, Defiance Comedy

BEST LOCAL OUTDOOR ARTS FESTIVAL

IRVINGTON HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL

With so many great festivals around the city each year, it's good to see one of Indy's oldest take top spot this year. Truly a neighborhood festival, a full week of events gets everyone involved in the spook-tacular celebration.

HONORABLE MENTION // Indy Pride, Virginia Avenue Music Festival



DANCE KALEIDOSCOPE //

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CHARLIE BALLANTINE //

BEST OF INDY: MUSIC AND NIGHTLIFE

BY SETH JOHNSON // SJOHNSON@NUVO.NET

It has certainly been an excellent year of local music in Indianapolis. Crowds came out en masse to locally driven festivals like Chreece, Holler on the Hill, Indy Jazz Fest, and Virginia Avenue Music Fest. Indiana album releases were plentiful as well, whether you're talking jazz, pop, rock, or hip-hop.

While all of this was going on, Mayor Joe Hogsett also announced a new series of artist grants aimed at strengthening Indy's arts industries, creative individuals, and cultural organizations. Specific categories for the first round of these Create Indy grants included design, film, new media, music, and food and beverage.

Through our 2018 Best of Indy voting, you the readers were able to tell us what excited you in the world of Indy music this year. In looking over the results, several names came up a lot, with the first being Indianapolis jazz guitarist **Charlie Ballantine**. A regular performer at venues like The Jazz Kitchen and Chatterbox, Ballantine won Best Local Album

of the Year, Best Local Instrumentalist, Best Local Jazz Artist, and Best Local Musician/Band (Overall). Keeping things in the family, Charlie's father **Scott Ballantine** also won Best Local Blues Artist/Band.

In addition to Ballantine, other Indianapolis jazz acts came up quite a bit in this year's Best of Indy results. A band made up of several Indianapolis jazz regulars, **Clint Breeze and the Groove** was voted Best Soul Artist/Band. Clint and company also finished second in the voting for Best Local Musician/Band (Overall) and Best Jazz Artist/Band. Like the Groove, saxophonist **Rob Dixon** placed in several categories as well, finishing third in Best Local Album of the Year, Best Local Instrumentalist, and Best Jazz Artist/Band.

Hosted by Mary Fagdalane and Stevie Dicks, **Low Pone** is a queer dance party held at Pioneer in Fountain Square on the first Saturday of every month. Although not technically a club or venue, Low Pone was voted Best Local Dance Venue/Club and finished

second behind **Metro** for Best Local LGBT Venue/Club. Low Pone's resident DJ, DJ Little Town, also finished third in the voting for Best Local DJ.

Of course, these are only a few of the winners in this year's Best of Indy music category, selected by you the readers. Continue on to see what other bands, musicians, and venues also fared well in the 2018 voting.

READERS PICKS

BEST LOCAL MUSICIAN/BAND (OVERALL)

CHARLIE BALLANTINE

It's been a big year for Indianapolis jazz guitarist Charlie Ballantine. In addition to performing regularly all over town, the Indiana University graduate released an acclaimed album titled *Life Is Brief: The Music of Bob Dylan*, which features 12 jazz interpretations of classic Bob Dylan songs. Ballantine won several awards this year, including Best Jazz Artist, Best Instrumentalist, and Best New Album.

HONORABLE MENTION // Clint Breeze and the Groove, Brother O' Brother

BEST LOCAL ALBUM OF THE YEAR

CHARLIE BALLANTINE (*LIFE IS BRIEF: THE MUSIC OF BOB DYLAN*)

Ballantine honors the music of Bob Dylan on his standout 2018 album. Constructed at Indianapolis' Postal Recording, the release features 12 uniquely orchestrated covers, including "The Times They Are a-Changin'," "Masters of War," and "Don't Think Twice, It's All Right." In addition to Ballantine, *Life Is Brief* also features contributions from bassist Jesse Wittman, drummer Chris Parker, alto saxophonist Amanda Gardier, tenor saxophonist Rob Dixon, organist Shawn McGowan, and vocalists Brandon Whyde and Mina Keohane.

HONORABLE MENTION // Brother O' Brother (*Monster Truck*), Rob Dixon (*Coast to Crossroads*)

BEST JAZZ ARTIST/BAND

CHARLIE BALLANTINE

Indianapolis jazz guitarist Charlie Ballantine can be heard performing all over Indianapolis, making regular appearances at Chatterbox and The Jazz Kitchen. Ballantine also makes a point of branching out as well, often playing less conventional jazz venues both in and out of state. His current resume of festival performances includes appearances at Fountain Square Music Festival, Penrod Arts Fair, and Winnipeg International Jazz Festival, among others.

HONORABLE MENTION // Clint Breeze and the Groove, Rob Dixon

BEST INSTRUMENTALIST

CHARLIE BALLANTINE

Although he may have a degree in jazz guitar performance, Ballantine draws from a number of musical influences, including everyone from Jimi Hendrix to Wes Montgomery. On some nights, Ballantine can be heard leading his own jazz group. On other nights, you can hear him guesting in other non-jazz bands such as Jeff Kelly and the Graveyard Shift.

HONORABLE MENTION // Brandon Moss, Rob Dixon

BEST BLUES ARTIST/BAND

SCOTT BALLANTINE

An Indianapolis music veteran, guitarist Scott Ballantine is often seen playing alongside fellow Hoosier native Andra Faye. Known for being a guitar player's guitar player, Ballantine is proficient in a myriad of playing styles, from jazz to blues. Hear Ballantine's guitar work on a 2015 album he and Faye released titled *Coulda Woulda Shoulda*.

HONORABLE MENTION // Melodious Thunk, Gene Deer

BEST METAL ARTIST/BAND

SACRED LEATHER

With a vintage heavy metal sound that'd make Judas Priest proud, Sacred Leather has received international attention for their 2018 album *Ultimate Force*. Released via Italian heavy metal label Cruz Del Sur Music, the band's debut full-length was described as a "spirit-of-1983 joint" by Nolsley, who also complimented Sacred Leather on their leather and spikes attire.

HONORABLE MENTION // Potslammer, Rok Hollywood



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Music+Nightlife Continued...

BEST POP ARTIST/BAND

THE SHAKE UPS

Back in 2013, this power-pop music collective started performing original, family-friendly songs inspired by their favorite cartoons. Since then, The Shake Ups have released full-length albums inspired by *My Little Pony*, *Steven Universe*, and *Voltron*. The group has performed at major conventions such as Gen Con, Wizard World, Comic Con, and Indy Pop Con.

HONORABLE MENTION // Wife Patrol, Summer Bruise

BEST PUNK ARTIST/BAND

THINK TANK

According to our very own Barfly, Think Tank makes music that's "dirty, sweaty, and antagonistic." Regularly featured on Punk Rock Night bills at the Melody Inn, the hardcore punk band has an impressive collection of demos on SoundCloud featuring songs like "Enter the Void" and "No One Puts Danzig in the Corner."

HONORABLE MENTION // Yarn 4, In Calico

BEST RAP ARTIST

OREO JONES

There's no questioning that Oreo Jones is a man of the people. Founder of Indianapolis' Chreece hip-hop festival, he is a member of local hip-hop supergroup Ghost Gun Summer. Since releasing his 2016 album *Cash for Gold*, however, Jones has shifted his focus to a more experimental project, making mind-bending R&B under the name Michael Raintree.

HONORABLE MENTION // Nate B, Flaco

BEST ROCK ARTIST/BAND

THE TREES

Known for their psychedelic rock sound, this Indianapolis four-piece has performed at venues all over Central Indiana, from HI-FI to The Mousetrap. The Trees' 2016 self-titled concept album was recorded live in front of a studio audience at Playground Productions in Irvington and can be heard on their Bandcamp.

HONORABLE MENTION // Brother O' Brother, America Owns The Moon

BEST SOUL ARTIST/BAND

CLINT BREEZE AND THE GROOVE

Led by drummer/producer Carrington "Clint Breeze" Clinton, this band blends elements of hip-hop, jazz, and soul all into one, resulting in an irresistible sound that truly does groove. In addition to Clinton, the band features an all-star cast of musicians, including several key players in Indy's jazz scene.

HONORABLE MENTION // Bashiri Asad, Allison Victoria

BEST VOCALIST

BASHIRI ASAD

An Indianapolis soul music warrior, Bashiri Asad makes the world a better place with his warm, heart-felt music. With a voice as smooth as the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Asad followed up his 2016 *Proximity* EP with a 2017 project titled *A Girl Named Charlie*.

HONORABLE MENTION // Tabetha McCleery, Mariah Ivey

BASHIRI ASAD //



BEST COVER BAND

TOY FACTORY

From Salt-n-Pepa to Prince, Toy Factory is known for shaking booties. Often simply referred to as The Toyz, the versatile Indianapolis band has a song list that's packed full of soul. Catch them performing at a local club, festival, wedding, private event, or corporate event near you.

HONORABLE MENTION // GlamERICA, Lisa Frank and the Trapper Keepers

BEST DJ

RUSTY REDENBACHER

The man, the myth, the legend. Few can say they've gone toe to toe with Eminem in a rap battle like this man did. A member of legendary Indianapolis hip-hop group Mudkids, Rusty Redenbacher may best be known for his energetic rhymes, but the Naptown legend can also rock a dance floor too. Catch him spinning at an event or party near you.

HONORABLE MENTION // DJ Crazy B, DJ Little Town

BEST ALL-AGES VENUE

SQUARE CAT VINYL

Located in the heart of Fountain Square, this all-ages venue throws a myriad of shows for local, regional, and national acts. From jazz to rock to hip-hop, the show selection is always diverse. While at Square Cat Vinyl, you can also shop for records, grab a coffee, or sip on a beer as well.

HONORABLE MENTION // Lawn at White River, Hoosier Dome

BEST LARGE MUSIC VENUE

MURAT THEATRE AT OLD NATIONAL CENTRE

Housed in the Old National Centre at 502 N. New Jersey St., the 2,500-capacity Murat Theatre is one of Indy's most storied concert halls. In the past year, the theater space has hosted artists like Jason Isbell, Janelle Monáe, The Decemberists, and more.

HONORABLE MENTION // The Vogue, Lawn at White River

DJ LITTLE TOWN, MARY FAGDALANE, AND
CARRIE KEEL OF LOW PONE //



BEST SMALL MUSIC VENUE

HI-FI

Since opening in 2014, HI-FI has quickly become a destination venue for acts touring through Indianapolis. Located in the historic Murphy Arts Center, the venue has expanded its capacity to 400, while still maintaining a reputation as Indy's best sounding room. Noteworthy HI-FI shows in 2018 have included Andrew W.K., Guided by Voices, Justin Townes Earle, Lucy Dacus, and more.

HONORABLE MENTION // The Chatterbox, Melody Inn

BEST LGBT VENUE/CLUB

METRO

A Mass Ave mainstay, this LGBT nightclub and restaurant has served Indianapolis since 1990. Make your way there on a Tuesday or Thursday for karaoke from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. If you're looking for somewhere to dance on the weekend, Metro is where it's at too, with DJs in the mix from 11 p.m. to 3 a.m.

HONORABLE MENTION // Low Pone, Downtown Olly's

BEST DANCE VENUE/CLUB

LOW PONE

Low Pone is a queer dance party held at Pioneer in Fountain Square on the first Saturday of every month. Hosted by Mary Fagdalane and Stevie Dicks, the event also regularly features drag performances, with a night-long soundtrack from DJ Little Town.

HONORABLE MENTION // Ike & Jonesy's, The Red Room

BEST PLACE FOR COCKTAILS

HOTEL TANGO

Makes sense that the city's best distillery would also take top spot for best cocktails. We can testify to the deliciousness of the drinks here, having slung back many a Gin Bravo at the cozy spot this summer, and we can't wait to sample their seasonal winter drinks near the fire this November.

HONORABLE MENTION // Brass Ring, Thunderbird

BEST BARTENDER

KEVIN SANDERS AT BLUEBEARD

It says a lot about a place for customers to pick a bartender as the best in the city. Given that Bluebeard tops so many categories this year in the dining category, it's good to see they're best in drinks also. Sanders does a great job at making everyone feel welcome, as well as making damn good drinks.

HONORABLE MENTION // Amanda Wallace at Centerpoint, Andrew Brown at Hotel Tango

BEST DIVE BAR

ALLEY CAT

We believe a true dive bar is hidden in plain sight with good prices and slightly rough edges. Broad Ripple's Alley Cat fulfills these requirements and then some. Awesome jukebox, darts, a shot and a cold one, what more could you ask for?

HONORABLE MENTION // Dorman Street, The Dugout

BEST SPORTS BAR

ALE EMPORIUM

Awesome wings, cold beer, enough TVs to make an electronic store appear underwhelming. Indy's choice for best sports bar seems a no brainer. If your team is playing, get in here and experience sports bar bliss.

HONORABLE MENTION // Chatham Tap, Kilroys

BEST TRIVIA NIGHT

SINKING SHIP

The last Thursday of every month, Sinking Ship hosts Trivia Obscura, a Family Feud style trivia game that's as useless as it is offensive. Come test how much crap you have stored in your brain while enjoying craft beer and great company.

HONORABLE MENTION // Books and Brews, Tappers

BEST STRIP CLUB

BRAD'S BRASS FLAMINGO

No flamingos here, just ladies in various stages of undress. Brad's is NUVO readers' favorite strip club and it's easy to see why. If the boobs don't impress you, the breakfast menu most certainly will. Don't miss the bacon or the lap dances.

HONORABLE MENTION // Dancers, Classy Chassy

BEST PLACE FOR CHEAP PITCHERS

DORMAN STREET

Originally opened at the end of Prohibition, this neighborhood bar in the Chatham Arch/Mass Ave district is rumored to have been a hangout for John Dillinger in the weeks leading up to his robbery of the State Bank on Mass Ave in 1933. Better known now for cheap pitchers, stop in for low-key fun like napkin art contests, bring your own vinyl nights, and movie screenings.

HONORABLE MENTION // The Dugout, Sam's Silver Circle

BEST PLACE FOR LATE NIGHT MUNCHIES

SINKING SHIP

Late-night munchies don't discriminate and neither does Sinking Ship. They have options for anyone and everyone, whether you need a spicy Chuck Norris burger, a cup of chili, some vegan seitan wings, a sack of balls (donut holes), or just one more beer, they've got you covered.

HONORABLE MENTION // ClusterTruck, Brass Ring



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SOUNDCHECK

BY IAN MCPHEE



WEDNESDAY // 10.24

The Ataris at The HI-FI

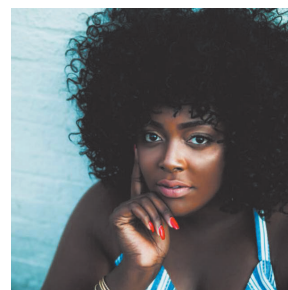
The Ataris are celebrating the 15th anniversary of *So Long, Astoria* and the Don Henley cover that propelled them into a brief moment of after-school music video channel fame. Did you know that Astoria is actually a metaphor for Anderson, Indiana, where the band is originally from? Or a reference to *Goonies*. Or is Astoria a real place? Get to HI-FI and find out, I guess.



FRIDAY // 10.26

Atmosphere at The Vogue

What do you get when you cross an ant with a slug? Well, if you answered “the hip-hop equivalent of a mutant ant-slug,” you’d be right. Slug and Ant, a.k.a. Atmosphere are back at The Vogue on Friday night, hot off the Oct. 5 release of *My Vida Local*, their seventh studio album. They’ll be rocking the stage with Dem Atlas, The Lioness and DJ Keezy. Don’t miss it.



FRIDAY // 10.26

Kim Kenny at The Jazz Kitchen

Indianapolis native Kim Kenny is a powerhouse vocalist and songwriter. She’s been performing as long as she can remember, starting with singing gospel music at her father’s church. Since then, her gift has taken her to all the way to *Showtime at The Apollo Theatre* and the *Steve Harvey Show*. Don’t miss her tribute to Aretha Franklin on Friday at The Jazz Kitchen.



MONDAY // 10.29

Lake Street Dive at The Vogue

Monday is your chance to catch Lake Street Dive when they come to blow the roof off The Vogue. The Brooklyn-based band hasn’t ever been able to be pinned down to one genre or style, as evident on their latest release *Free Yourself Up*. Think pop meets jazz, and then they meet rock ‘n’ roll and all go off somewhere to dance until the sun comes up.



WEDNESDAY // 10.31

Slothrust at HI-FI

Get your Halloween on at HI-FI with Slothrust. They just kicked off a two-month tour after *The Pact* was released on Sept. 14 and they’re swingin’ through Indy with Mannequin Pussy. Go to the show, dress like a rusty sloth or something. Whatever you do, just promise me you won’t attend the Hobo Johnson concert. That shit is problematic as fuck.

WEDNESDAY // 10.24

Seven Lions Deluxe at Old National Centre 8 p.m.
\$30, all-ages

Eric Johnson The Vogue
8 p.m. \$35, 21+

Maria Muldaur The Jazz Kitchen
7 p.m. \$40, 21+

BERNSEN, Bullet Points, The Big Gorgeous, Tombaugh Regio
Melody Inn 7 p.m. \$5, 21+

THURSDAY // 10.25

Destroyer (solo) w/ Adam Gross
HI-FI 7 p.m. \$17, 21+

Lo Moon w/ James and The Drifters White Rabbit Cabaret
8 p.m. \$10, 21+

Altered Halloween with Thriftworks The Mousetrap
9 p.m. \$10, 21+

Heaven's Gateway Drugs with Bedforms Pioneer
9 p.m. \$10, 21+

The Lady Presidents w/ Jake Schlegel & Fern Murphy
Melody Inn 8 p.m. \$5, 21+

Chris Duarte Group
Slippery Noodle Inn
8:30 p.m. \$5, 21+

Space Cubs, Team Leader, VV Torso Hoy Polloy 8 p.m. \$5, 21+

FRIDAY // 10.26

Sirius Blvck, Skypp, Double A, Jeremiah Stokes, Peteyboy, Naptown Nicey
State Street Pub 9 p.m. \$5, 21+

Young the Giant w/ Lights
Egyptian Room at Old National Centre 7 p.m. \$35, all-ages

Edward David Anderson
Square Cat Vinyl
8 p.m. \$10, all-ages

Lil Wyte Emerson Theater
6 p.m. \$20, all-ages

Audiodacity w/ Electric Orange Peel Halloween Extravaganza
The Mousetrap
9 p.m. \$7, 21+

As Cities Burn w/ Stay Outside
Hoosier Dome
7 p.m. \$20, all-ages

Archarus, Faerie Ring, Us as Caravan, Spirit Division
Healer 8 p.m. \$10, all-ages

SATURDAY // 10.27

Cairo Jag, Mick's Jaguar, Mess, Bedforms State Street Pub
9 p.m. \$5, 21+

Lindsay Ell 8 Seconds Saloon
6 p.m. \$15, 21+

Soul'd Out Vintage Dance Party
Square Cat Vinyl 9 p.m.
FREE, all-ages

Sean Imboden Large Ensemble
The Jazz Kitchen
7:30 p.m. \$15, 21+

Blackjack Davey & The Rhythm Kings
Slippery Noodle Inn
8 p.m. \$10, 21+

Spellbound Darkwave DJ Night - Halloween Freakout Edition
Pioneer 9:30 p.m. \$5, 21+

Lisa Frank and The Trapper Keepers is Smashing Pumpkins Halloween Party
Black Circle Brewing Company
7 p.m. **FREE**, 21+

SUNDAY // 10.28

The Ballroom Thieves w/ Odetta Hartman, River Thief
HI-FI 7 p.m. \$12, 21+

Cannibal Kids w/ Kevin Jones, The Sliding Glass, The ADHD'S
The Irving Theater
7 p.m. \$10, all-ages

Vanessa Rubin, The Motor City Jazz Collective
The Jazz Kitchen 7 p.m. \$30, 21+

White Bush Unicorn, Kings of Spade
Melody Inn 8 p.m. \$5, 21+

Small Words, Covey, Awetree, Themiddleclass
Hoosier Dome 6:30 p.m.
\$10, all-ages

Tiny Kingdoms w/Setting Color, Colin Fiol, Vacant Frame
The Pit (House Show)
6:30 p.m. \$5, all-ages

MONDAY // 10.29

Mega Bog, Amy O, Heaven Honey
The Bishop (Bloomington)
7 p.m. \$9, 21+

The Playground Open Mic Night
The Jazz Kitchen
7 p.m. \$10, 21+

Rod Hamdallah
Be Here Now (Muncie) 8 p.m.
\$5, all-ages

TUESDAY // 10.30

Ghost: A Pale Tour Named Death
Murat Theatre at Old National Centre 7 p.m.
\$32-\$75, all-ages

Castle Black, Bear Bones, Lowdown Melody Inn
7 p.m. \$5, 21+

Eric Paul & Miss Christine
Indy Hostel 7 p.m.
FREE, all-ages

Gene Deer
Slippery Noodle Inn
7:30 p.m. **FREE**, 21+

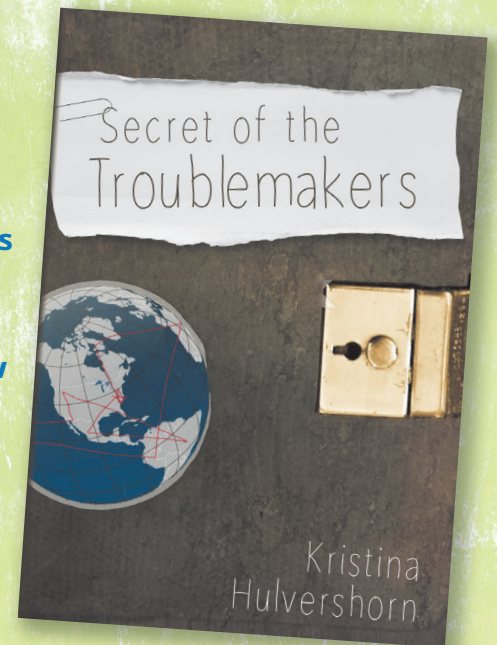
Masked Intruder, Applecore, Amuse
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BARFLY

I FIRST SAW MICHAEL RAY DURHAM LAST YEAR AT THE TOM WAITS TRIBUTE SHOW. HIS BLUESY FOLK STYLE WAS PERFECTLY SUITED FOR WAITS STYLE, THOUGH ON VOCALS HE'S CLOSER TO NEIL YOUNG.

A SONG THAT REALLY SHOWS OFF HIS NEIL YOUNG VENEER IS "NO CHOICE AT ALL".

MY FAVORITE BY HIM IS CALLED "SOMETHINGS WRONG". IT'S GOT A TERRIFIC WAILING GUITAR AND TAKES THE BLUES INTO DECIDEDLY PSYCHEDELIC TERRITORY.

HE'S A METAMORA, INDIANA NATIVE BUT STILL PLAYS INDY ON A REGULAR BASIS. I HAVE JUST 2 WISHES FOR THIS GUY. I'D LIKE TO SEE HIM PUT A FULL BAND BEHIND SOME OF THESE TUNES, AND I'D LIKE TO SEE SOME OF INDY'S TALENT BUYERS BOOK HIM AS OPENER FOR BIGGER ACTS.

HIS VOICE DESERVES TO BE HEARD.

MICHAEL RAY DURHAM
HE WAS A LITTLE HARD TO FIND ON SPOTIFY BECAUSE HIS NEWEST CD IS RELEASED AS JUST "MIKE DURHAM". REST ASSURED IT'S THE SAME GUY.

BY
WAYNE BERTSCH

Brad's Brass Flamingo

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♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19): In her poem "Shedding Skin," Harryette Mullen compares her own transformation to the action a snake periodically carries out to renew itself. Since you now have an excellent opportunity to undertake your own molting process, you may find her thoughts helpful. (I've rendered them in prose for easier reading.) "Pulling out of the old scarred skin—old rough thing I don't need now—I strip off, slip out of, leave behind. Shedding toughness, peeling layers down to vulnerable stuff. And I'm blinking off old eyelids for a new way of seeing. By the rock I rub against, I'm going to be tender again." Halloween costume suggestion: snake sloughing its skin.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20): "Only the young and stupid are confident about sex and romance," says 49-year-old author Elizabeth Gilbert, who has written extensively about those subjects. I agree with her. I've devoted myself to studying the mysteries of love for many years, yet still feel like a rookie. Even if you are smarter about these matters than Gilbert and me, Taurus, I urge you to adopt a humble and curious attitude during the next few weeks. The cosmos has prepared some interesting lessons for you, and the best way to take advantage is to be eagerly receptive and open-minded. Halloween costume suggestion: sex researcher, love explorer, intimacy experimenter.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20): "My way of learning is to heave a wild and unpredictable monkey-wrench into the machinery," wrote Gemini author Dashiell Hammett. But I recommend that you use his approach very rarely, and only when other learning methods aren't working. Most of the time, your best strategy for getting the lessons you need is to put lubricating oil into the machinery, not a monkey-wrench. That'll be especially true in the coming weeks. I suggest that you turn the machinery off for a while as you add the oil and do some maintenance. Halloween costume suggestion: repair person; computer techie; machine whisperer.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22): The great Swedish filmmaker Ingmar Bergman was a Cancerian like you and me. One of the factors contributing to his success was that he put his demons to good use, "by harnessing them to his chariot." He also testified that he gained control over his demons by taking long walks after breakfast. "Demons don't like fresh air," he said. "They prefer it if you stay in bed with cold feet." I suspect that now would be an excellent time to adopt his advice. Halloween costume suggestion: walk your demon on a leash, or make it into a puppet, or harness it to your chariot.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Throughout the Halloween season, I encourage you to fantasize extensively about what your dream home would look like and feel like if you had all the money necessary to create it. What colors would you paint the walls? Would you have carpets or hardwood floors? What would be your perfect lighting, furniture, and décor? As you gazed out your windows, what views would you see? Would there be nature nearby or urban hotspots? Would you have an office or music room or art studio? Have fun imagining the sanctuary that would bring out the best in you. Halloween costume suggestion: the ultimate homebody.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): "Extraordinary things are always hiding in places people never think to look," writes novelist Jodi Picoult. That's crucial for you to meditate on during the coming weeks. Why? Because your superpower is going to be the ability to find extraordinary things that are hiding in places where people have almost never thought to look. You can do both yourself and those you care for a big favor by focusing your intensity on this task. Halloween costume suggestions: sleuth, treasure hunter, private eye, Sherlock Holmes.

HOMEWORK: What part of you is too tame? How can you inspire it to seek wilder ways of knowing? Write Freewillastrology.com.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): "There is a season for wildness and a season for settledness, and this is neither. This season is about becoming," Author Shauna Niequist wrote that. In accordance with the astrological omens, I endorse her perspective as true and useful for you. You've zipped through your time of fertile chaos, conjuring up fresh possibilities. When January arrives, you'll be ready to work on stability and security. But for now, your assignment is to blossom. Halloween costume suggestions: beautiful creature hatching from an egg; strong sprout cracking out of a seed.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): "He believed in magic," writes author Michael Chabon about a character in his novel *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay*. "Not in the so-called magic of candles, pentagrams, and bat wings," nor "dowsing rods, séances, weeping statues, werewolves, wonders, or miracles." Then what kind? Chabon says it's the "impersonal magic of life," like coincidences and portents that reveal their meanings in retrospect. I bring this to your attention, Scorpio, because now is a favorable time to call on the specific kind of magic that you regard as real and helpful. What kind of magic is that? Halloween costume suggestion: magician, witch, wizard.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): "If adventures will not befall a young lady in her own village, she must seek them abroad," Sagittarian author Jane Austen wrote that in her novel *Northanger Abbey*, and now I'm passing her message on to you, slightly altered. My version is, "If adventures will not befall Sagittarian people of any age or gender in their own neighborhood, they must seek them abroad." And where exactly is "abroad"? The dictionary says it might mean a foreign country, or it could simply mean outside or in another place. I'd like to extend the meaning further to include anywhere outside your known and familiar world. Halloween costume suggestion: traveler on a pilgrimage or explorer on a holy quest.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): PR executives at a beer company offered to pay me a lot of money if I would sneak a product placement ad into your horoscope. They asked me to pretend there was a viable astrological reason to recommend that you imbibe their product in abundance. But the truth is, the actual planetary omens suggest the opposite. You should not in fact be lounging around in a haze of intoxication. You should instead be working hard to drum up support for your labor of love or your favorite cause. Very Important People will be more available to you than usual, and you'll be wise to seek their input. Halloween costume suggestion: the Ultimate Fundraiser; Networker of the Year; Chief Hobnobber.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): "What kind of idea are you?" asks author Salman Rushdie. "Are you the kind that compromises, does deals, accommodates itself, aims to find a niche, to survive; or are you the cussed, bloody-minded, ramrod-backed type of damnfool notion that would rather break than sway with the breeze?" I pose this question to you, Aquarius, because I think you could be an effective version of either idea in the coming weeks. If you're the latter—the cussed, damnfool notion—you may change your world in dramatic ways. Halloween costume suggestions: revolutionary; crusader; agitator; rabble-rouser.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): "There is no beauty without some strangeness," wrote Edgar Allan Poe. Fashion designer Rei Kawakubo ventured further, declaring, "Strangeness is a necessary ingredient in beauty." She also added another nuance to her definition: "For something to be beautiful, it doesn't have to be pretty." I'll offer you one more seed for thought: wabi-sabi. It's a Japanese term that refers to a kind of beauty that's imperfect, transitory, and incomplete. I bring these clues to your attention, Pisces, because now is an excellent time to refine and clarify your own notion of beauty—and re-commit yourself to embodying it. Halloween costume suggestion: the embodiment of your definition of beauty.



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